

...DECEMBER 2009 REGIONAL CLIMATE SUMMARY...

SUMMARY FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA AND MONTEREY BAY AREA...

DECEMBER 2009 WAS A COOL MONTH ACROSS NORTHERN AND CENTRAL CALIFORNIA. COOLER THAN NORMAL DECEMBER CONDITIONS WERE DUE IN LARGE PART TO A COLD SNAP FROM THE 6TH THROUGH THE 9TH...WHEN AN ARCTIC AIRMASS DROPPED OUT OF WESTERN CANADA AND INTO CALIFORNIA. WIDESPREAD FREEZING TEMPERATURES WERE RECORDED IN THE INTERIOR VALLEYS DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF THE 6TH...8TH...AND 9TH. IN ADDITION...OVERNIGHT LOWS DROPPED TO NEAR FREEZING CLOSE TO THE OCEAN AND NEAR SAN FRANCISCO BAY. RECORD DAILY LOW TEMPERATURES WERE SET OR TIED ON BOTH THE 6TH AND THE 8TH. ANOTHER BLAST OF COOL AIR SWEEPED ACROSS THE REGION JUST PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS...BUT THAT COLD EVENT WAS NOT NEARLY AS SEVERE AS THE ONE EARLY IN THE MONTH. AVERAGE HIGH TEMPERATURES FOR THE MONTH WERE COOLER THAN NORMAL AT ALL REPORTING CLIMATE STATIONS ACROSS THE SAN FRANCISCO AND MONTEREY BAY AREAS... GENERALLY ABOUT 2 TO 3 DEGREES BELOW NORMAL. ON THE OTHER HAND... MINIMUM TEMPERATURES FOR THE MONTH AS A WHOLE AVERAGED RIGHT AROUND NORMAL...WITH ABOUT HALF THE REPORTING LOCATIONS SLIGHTLY BELOW NORMAL AND HALF SLIGHTLY ABOVE. AFTER THE COLD SNAP EARLY IN THE MONTH...A SERIES OF WEATHER SYSTEMS PERIODICALLY MOVED THROUGH CALIFORNIA...BRINGING WITH THEM CLOUD COVER THAT HELPED HOLD TEMPERATURES UP AT NIGHT. THIS WOULD EXPLAIN WHY AVERAGE LOW TEMPERATURES FOR THE THE MONTH AS A WHOLE ENDED UP NEAR NORMAL.

RAINFALL FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER WAS BELOW NORMAL FOR A LARGE MAJORITY OF THE REPORTING CLIMATE STATIONS. PRECIPITATION DEFICITS WERE GREATEST IN THE NORTH AND EAST BAY WHERE RAIN TOTALS WERE GENERALLY TWO-THIRDS TO THREE-QUARTERS OF NORMAL FOR THE MONTH. ELSEWHERE...RAIN TOTALS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER WERE CLUSTERED CLOSER TO NORMAL...WITH MOST LOCATIONS JUST SHY OF NORMAL. A FEW LOCATIONS IN SANTA CLARA...SANTA CRUZ...AND SAN BENITO COUNTIES ENDED THE MONTH WITH ABOVE NORMAL PRECIPITATION ACCUMULATION.

THE FIRST FIVE DAYS OF DECEMBER WERE DRY. BUT THEREAFTER...RAINFALL WAS DISTRIBUTED RATHER EVENLY THROUGHOUT THE MONTH. THE COLD ARCTIC SYSTEM THAT PLUNGED SOUTH OUT OF CANADA ON THE 6TH MANAGED TO SWEEP FAR ENOUGH OFFSHORE TO INGEST SOME MOISTURE. MODERATE AMOUNTS OF RAINFALL FEEL ACROSS THE REGION FROM LATE EVENING ON THE 6TH THROUGH THE MORNING OF THE 7TH (MONDAY). BUT THE BIG WEATHER STORY WITH THE STORM SYSTEM ON THE 6TH/7TH WAS SNOWFALL. SNOWFALL ACCUMULATED IN THE HILLS THROUGHOUT THE REGION. LICK OBSERVATORY ON MOUNT HAMILTON PICKED UP 6 INCHES OF SNOWFALL. LIGHT SNOWFALL ACCUMULATIONS WERE REPORTED NEARLY TO SEA LEVEL ACROSS PORTIONS OF THE EAST BAY EARLY ON MONDAY MORNING.

THE WETTEST OF DECEMBER'S WEATHER SYSTEMS ROLLED THROUGH THE REGION ON THE 11TH AND 12TH. RAINFALL WAS HEAVY FOR A TIME ON THE AFTERNOON OF SATURDAY THE 12TH. A COUPLE OF RELATIVELY WEAK SYSTEMS BROUGHT MOSTLY LIGHT RAINFALL TO THE AREA ON THE 16TH AND AGAIN ON THE 21ST. DRY WEATHER PREVAILED FOR THREE DAYS PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS AND ON CHRISTMAS DAY. THE REMAINDER OF THE MONTH WAS MOSTLY UNSETTLED WITH PERIODS OF RAIN...MOSTLY LIGHT TO MODERATE IN INTENSITY. NONE OF

THE STORM SYSTEMS THAT MOVED THROUGH THE AREA DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER WERE PARTICULARLY STRONG. THUS...NO FLOODING OR EXTREME WIND EVENTS OCCURRED.

AS OF DECEMBER 31ST...THE CALIFORNIA RAIN YEAR (WHICH BEGINS ON JULY 1ST) WAS ONLY HALF OVER. YEAR-TO-DATE RAINFALL TOTALS THROUGH DECEMBER 31ST RANGED FROM A LOW OF 70 PERCENT IN THE NORTH BAY (AT SANTA ROSA) TO AS MUCH AS 100 PERCENT IN THE SOUTH AND EAST BAY AT BOTH OAKLAND AND SAN JOSE. FOR MOST LOCATIONS...YEAR-TO-DATE RAINFALL TOTALS AS OF DECEMBER 31ST RANGED FROM 80 TO 90 PERCENT OF NORMAL.

...DECEMBER REGIONAL TEMPERATURE SUMMARY...

LOCATION	AVG HIGH	NORMAL HIGH	DEPARTURE FROM	AVG LOW	NORMAL LOW	DEPARTURE FROM
			NORMAL			NORMAL

NORTH BAY...

KENTFIELD	54.2	56.4	-2.2	40.1	40.2	-0.1
NAPA	55.3	57.7	-2.4	38.6	38.5	0.1
PETALUMA	53.6	57.6	-4.0	38.1	37.5	0.6
SAINT HELENA	55.1	58.2	-3.1	38.8	36.2	2.6
SAN RAFAEL	52.4	56.6	-4.2	40.3	41.0	-0.7
SANTA ROSA	56.1	58.0	-1.9	38.5	38.2	0.3
SONOMA	54.3	58.5	-4.2	37.0	36.4	0.6

SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA...

HALF MOON BAY	57.2	58.8	-1.6	41.2	43.3	-2.1
PACIFICA	M	56.2	M	M	45.4	M
PALO ALTO	M	58.2	M	M	37.5	M
REDWOOD CITY	56.4	58.6	-2.2	39.8	39.3	0.5
SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT	54.5	56.4	-1.9	43.9	43.0	0.9
SAN FRANCISCO DOWNTOWN	55.3	58.0	-2.7	45.3	46.7	-1.4
WOODSIDE	M	60.4	M	M	36.2	M

EAST BAY...

BERKELEY	M	56.8	M	M	44.1	M
CONCORD	54.5	57.8	-3.3	39.2	41.3	-2.1
FREMONT	56.6	58.9	-2.3	41.5	43.1	-1.6
LIVERMORE	55.3	57.1	-1.8	37.6	36.9	0.7
MARTINEZ	53.4	55.5	-2.1	36.5	38.7	-2.2
MOUNT DIABLO JUNCTION	53.2	56.2	-3.0	38.8	39.6	-0.8
NEWARK	56.9	57.7	-0.8	42.3	41.7	0.6
OAKLAND	57.2	57.7	-0.5	43.9	44.6	-0.7
RICHMOND	M	58.0	M	M	43.0	M

SOUTH BAY AND SANTA CRUZ COUNTY...

BEN LOMOND	59.1	61.4	-2.3	36.3	35.9	0.4
GILROY	58.7	60.2	-1.5	38.2	36.5	1.7
LOS GATOS	56.0	58.0	-2.0	39.5	37.9	1.6
MOUNT HAMILTON	46.4	49.9	-3.5	36.0	37.5	-1.5
SAN JOSE	57.5	57.9	-0.4	41.2	41.0	0.2
SANTA CRUZ	57.9	60.6	-2.7	40.4	39.4	1.0
WATSONVILLE	59.6	60.8	-1.2	39.4	38.5	0.9

MONTEREY AND SAN BENITO COUNTIES...

BIG SUR STATION	57.1	59.8	-2.7	41.8	43.3	-1.5
CARMEL VALLEY	59.7	62.7	-3.0	38.2	39.0	-0.8
HOLLISTER	57.0	60.8	-3.8	39.4	36.7	2.7
KING CITY	59.6	62.7	-3.1	37.9	34.3	3.6
MONTEREY	56.3	60.1	-3.8	43.7	43.6	0.1
PINNACLES NATIONAL MONUMENT	M	62.1	M	M	32.1	M
SALINAS	60.2	62.9	-2.7	40.2	40.6	-0.4

...DECEMBER REGIONAL PRECIPITATION SUMMARY...

LOCATION	DEC TOTAL	AVERAGE DEC PRECIP	PERCENT OF NORMAL
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NORTH BAY...

ANGWIN	M	6.25	M
CALISTOGA	M	5.96	M
CLOVERDALE	M	6.65	M
FORT ROSS	M	5.63	M
HEALDSBURG	M	6.50	M
KENTFIELD	5.72	7.38	78
MUIR WOODS	M	5.57	M
NAPA	2.14	3.89	55
OCCIDENTAL	5.54	8.38	66
PETALUMA	2.01	3.83	52
SAINT HELENA	3.54	5.41	65
SAN RAFAEL	3.82	4.84	79
SANTA ROSA	3.34	4.49	74
SONOMA	2.80	4.46	63

SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA...

HALF MOON BAY	2.66	4.10	65
PACIFICA	2.83	4.55	62
PALO ALTO	M	2.32	M
REDWOOD CITY	2.25	2.80	80
SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT	3.07	2.91	105
SAN FRANCISCO DOWNTOWN	2.77	3.05	91

WOODSIDE	M	4.47	M
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EAST BAY...

BERKELEY	M	3.46	M
CONCORD	3.29	3.81	86
FREMONT	2.20	3.44	64
LIVERMORE	2.02	2.04	99
MARTINEZ	2.72	2.79	97
MOUNT DIABLO			
JUNCTION	4.02	3.35	120
NEWARK	1.84	2.08	88
OAKLAND	2.43	3.13	78
RICHMOND	M	3.30	M

SOUTH BAY AND SANTA CRUZ COUNTY...

BEN LOMOND	6.21	7.14	87
GILROY	3.46	3.00	115
LOS GATOS	2.74	3.33	82
MOUNT HAMILTON	4.00	3.11	129
SAN JOSE	2.16	2.00	108
SANTA CRUZ	4.06	4.22	96
WATSONVILLE	3.65	3.41	107

MONTEREY AND SAN BENITO COUNTIES...

BIG SUR STATION	M	6.60	M
CARMEL VALLEY	2.47	3.38	73
HOLLISTER	2.00	1.59	126
KING CITY	1.39	1.59	87
MONTEREY	2.50	2.73	92
PINNACLES NATIONAL			
MONUMENT	M	2.45	M
SALINAS	1.90	2.05	93

...DAILY TEMPERATURE RECORDS FOR DECEMBER 2009...

DATE	LOCATION	RECORD LOW	OLD RECORD
12/6	LIVERMORE	26	26 IN 1906
12/6	SAN RAFAEL	32	32 IN 1972
12/8	MOFFETT FIELD	31	31 IN 1994
12/8	SALINAS	29	30 IN 1980
12/8	SAN RAFAEL	28	28 IN 1972
12/8	SANTA CRUZ	27	27 IN 1978

...MONTHLY RANKS FOR DOWNTOWN SAN FRANCISCO...

AVERAGE HIGH TEMPERATURE.....55.3.....31ST COOLEST

AVERAGE LOW TEMPERATURE.....45.3.....26TH COOLEST
MONTHLY RAINFALL.....2.77 INCHES.....67TH DRIEST

NOTE: THIS CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA IS PRELIMINARY. FOR OFFICIAL
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